

Dear Dick,

3/26/93

If Wrone was able to get access to the laser computer by now you should have all but the first 10 chapters from it. I hope you, Peter or anyone else you want to read it are able to soon. And that you like it.

Having tired more rapidly than usual this morning I've been thinking about it.

As best I can judge without reading it from the beginning to the end- which I'll do when he can send me the same printout he sent you so I'll have to do that only once now - I believe the book has the potential ⁺ indicated to you and that it does more than what I set out to do and believe we never discussed in detail. It is not a book on JAMA. JAMA was the skeleton I fleshed out in a formula that did not require much use of the cellar stairs. One trip is now a bit much for me. *And Helen was so very helpful. Thanks*

McKnight was here a couple of weeks ago when Wrone phoned. In discussing the book I had said that it is both solid and tough. Wrone corrected that, saying that as a historian it is unprecedented. McKnight, who earlier had said after reading only a few of the earlier chapters, that it should "revolutionize thinking about the JFK assassination," agreed with Wrone. And they are the two historians who can qualify as real subject experts. There are a few, including political scientists who are by those who do not know the subject regarded as experts but they are not in any sense. They are uninformed exponents of their own political preconceptions, conspiracy nuts or just plain frauds.

The 30th anniversary is coming up. There will be extraordinary attention to the subject. There is no reason to expect anything other than rechewed rancid cud. CBS-TV has assigned a crew that knows nothing about the subject and, ⁺ believe, CBS is not about to contradict itself, particularly not if they use Rather. What the Post is working on seems like trivia to me. It can change, of course. PBS through Frontline is going to do a profile on Oswald. They have nobody who knows anything about the subject, including Gus Russo, who they've hired while he contracted a book ~~he~~ ^{he} cannot even write himself. ^{also ignorant} He has a coauthor. The one person from Frontline who has been in touch with me is pursuing one of the nuttiest of all the many nutty theories. They are all ignorant, in short. The best have a smattering of knowledge of what was available in 1965-6 and not one has any real knowledge of anything since then other than theories which most of them espouse or agree with.

Resumed 3/30, after innumerable interruptions, including five carloads of Satanists taking possession of the cabin on the other side of our property Saturday night and Sunday morning. As I grow weaker and weaker, when I cannot work, as in walking, or feel I'm not up to it, I think about the present and reminisce about the past. Including about the commercial refusal to publish work as solid as any work on any subject of which I know, really, considering its depth and magnitude more solid than any of which I know. I do not have to ask myself how this could be in this country. It was. While at the same time there seems to have been no book outrageously bad enough not to be published on the subject.

Publishers do not have manuscripts read, and there are very few competent to do that, or they ignore the reports they get after ~~see~~ readings by experts.

The sole motive seems to be profit. And on such a subject!

Profit is a proper and an essential motive but outside of publishing society draws limits. It frowns upon selling sex for profit. But it does not frown upon publishing what subverts the democratic system and protects official evil-doers - who began with an immunity all the irresponsible publishing sheltered even more ^{as} did the monolithical publisher refusal to touch solid and factual work.

If so much was not intruding I'd now be working on the bibliography. I think it will be like none you've ever seen. What other work is there for me to credit, for example? Did anyone else file and fight those 13 lawsuits, set those precedents, get FOIA amended to be able to get that third of a million once-secret pages?

There is so much natural promotion for this work!

Was it Angelou who said I will go where no man has been and I will leave a path?

How many have done anything like that, more against such opposition and with fewer resources or as much alone?

And here I sit and wonder whether the book will be published.

You may not remember what I told you I would do and what I believed would be possible with it but I recall it clearly. I'll remind you if you'd like. You did not have my reason for remembering it. I was not boasting and I have done it.

I set out to make a definitive record for history whether or not it would be published.

I've done that as well as I could have expected to, perhaps better, given my age and health problems.

This book can do everything I told you it would be able to do. And it is what I told you it would be.

A phone call just brought me back to the realities, the distractions. The friend who was to drive me to Johns Hopkins Friday morning is down ~~with~~ with an infection and cannot. I'll try to find other means. I have a polyp to be removed and additional tests to determine whether there are others that do not show clearly but may be present in the lower tract. This afternoon I see the local cardiologist to obtain anything he has that might be of interest to the Hopkins surgeon I would like to perform the surgery that is usually outpatient and my not be with me because my blood so ~~years~~ years to clot.

I have also developed chronic bronchitis. Lung cancer, emphysema and any other cause in the lungs has been eliminated. The local specialist declined a bronchoscopic examination because for me ^{for me} that entails risk ~~he~~ wants to avoid and because he is not certain that there is anything they could or would do if they identify cancer there. He thinks there is none.

How weak have I become? In carrying a can of kerosenes for emergency heat when The Storm of the Century could have caused current outages that weighed less than 25 pounds, that was too much for me. Not for my fewer and weaker muscles. I was knocked out for a day.

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Do not misunderesatnd. I am not really feëling sorry for myself. I discussed that with you once. Nine more days and I'll be 80. While I regret that I do not have the more years I would like in prospect, I do not ^{really} have to ~~eg~~ regret the life I've lived or what I've done with it. I would have liked to have done more and better with it than I've ~~done~~ ^{done} but I haven't and yet I am not dissatisfied with what I have done.

Including with this book.

Maybe I'll have the peace of mind to do the bibliography before Friday's trip to Johns Hopkins, maybe I won't. If not I'll get it to Wrono for him to retype sometime next week.

I intend that it also be a record for history.

By the way, I have almost no mention of other books in the manuscript and only a couple of other authors are mentioned by name. Not Livingstone.

I mentioned on the first page what the only two professional historians who are subject experts think. Then I got a nice letter from the remaining genuine ^{scholarly} subject expert, a sociologist. The rest of his letter is personal, so I omit that. And then ^{put} one of the many like the other I get almost daily.

Dear friend, I hope all of you get to may age and can have the feelings I think you can see these kinds of communications and so many phone calls give me.

Only do it in better health!

Best,

Harold